orn of horns and skulls were recovered. Another person named by the two offenders is absconding and has not been arrested yet. The investigation in the matter is still continuing and the case is presently with the Delhi Police. The intended destination of these wildlife articles is not yet known.

(c) Yes, Sir.

Conference Organised by Animal Welfare Board of India

15. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Conference organised by the Animal Welfare Board of India was recently held in Delhi;

(b) if so, what has been the outcome of the Conference;

(c) what were in general the recommendations of the conference; and

(d) what does Government propose to do with regard to the recommendation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Sir. Animal Welfare Board of India organised a Seminar on Animal Welfare on 30-11-94 and 1-12-94.

(b) and (c) In the seminar, following were the main recommendations:—

(i) Mobilise public opinion and generate awareness.

(ii) Assisting setting up of shelter homes.

(iii) Stopage of Dog killing and adopting immunisation and sterlisation.

(iv) Setting up Mobile Courts for quick disposal of cases.

(v) Animal Welfare to be linked with Integrated Rural Development and sustiable agriculture practices

(vi) Prevention to Cruelty to Animl Act, 1960 to be revised to make it more effective.

(d) The recommendations will be examined by the Governmentt of India on receipt of the same formally rom the Animal Welfare Board of India.

Tiger Population in Wild Life Sanctuary and Melghat Sanctuary in Maharashtra

16. SHRI G. PATHAPA REDDY:

DR. SHRIKANT RAM CHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of Tigers in the Tadabo Wild Life Sanctuary in Chandarpur District and Melghat Sanctuary in Amravati District, both of Maharashtra;

(b) what steps are besing taken to increase the Tiger population; and

(c) how many cases of poaching were reported in these Sanctuaries during the last three years; and what is the action taken on this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) The estimated tiger population as per 1993 census in Tadoba National Park and Melghat Tiger Sanctuary are 14 and 72 respectively. The boundary of Melghat Tiger Sanctuary has been redefined and there are about 50 Tigers in the same now.

(b) Intensive management practices under the Project Tiger Scheme is expected to result in improvement in Tiger populaion, its prey base and its habitat.

(c) The State Government of Maharashtra has reported eleven cases of poaching in Melghat Tiger Sanctuary and none in Tadoba National Park during the last three years. Nine offenders have been prosecuted in the Court of Law.

Setting up of Chemical Zone in Umred Tehsil, Nagpur

17. SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA:

DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Environmental Clearance has been taken by the Government of Maharashtra for creating a Chemical Zone in Umred Tehsil of Nagpur District or thereabout;

(b) if so, what are the conditions of the said clearance or permission; and

(c) if not, what action is being taken on the Government's decision to set up the Chemical Zone in the catchment area of irrigation projects and proxmity to forests?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) No such environmental clearance has been given by the Central Government.

(c) Before according environmental clearance to development projects, due consideration is given to protect the catchment and forest areas.

Use of Forest Land by Industries

18. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision to allow industry to use forest land for commercial plantation; if so, details thereof;

(b) whether the interest of tribal people living in such forests have been taken care of, if so, the details thereof, and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) In view of the increasing threat of encroachment upon the large quantum of degraded forest land in the country and the need to afforest it urgently so as to expand green cover, inhibit encroachment and halt soil denudation and also to meet fuel and fodder needs and thereby to reduce pressure on existing natural forests and protected areas, the Government is considering to involve industry in afforestation of severely degraded areas in partnership with State Forests Development corporations so as to augment the efforts and the financial resources available for afforesation schemes of the Central and Statae Governments, NGOs and People's Cooperatives.

(b) The scheme under consideration will be finalised only after careful assessment of various issue involved and ensuring protection of traditional rights and concessions being enjoyed by the rural and tribal communities. As envisioned, the scheme is intended to benefit rural and tribal communities by increasing the availability of biomas, fuelwood and fodder, and also opening up avenues for rural employment generation.

(c) Does not arise.

Encroachment of Forest Land

19. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 5 per cent of 35 million hectares of degraded forest land in the country has been encroached upon;